GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:71
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
MINIMUM WAGES
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to increase the daily wages of labourers including agricultural labourers in view to the rising prices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any mechanism in place to ensure the payment of minimum wages fixed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the difference between the wages of skilled and unskilled labourers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) & (b): In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government and most of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted the system of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) on the basis of which the Minimum Wage is revised based on increase in Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.

(c) to (d): The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act,1948 is secured both in the Central Sphere and in the State Sphere. In the Central Sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM). The compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery which conducts regular inspections. In the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under- payment of minimum wages, the inspectors advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions against the defaulting employers are invoked.

The details regarding enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the Central and the State sphere for the year 2009-10 is at Annexure − I.

(e): Rates of Minimum Wages for Skilled and unskilled workers in different states / UTs is at Annexure− II